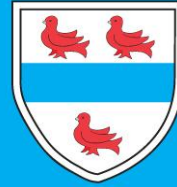




Archdiocese of
Birmingham



Bishop Walsh
Catholic School

a Performing Arts, Mathematics
and Computing College

Headteacher: J.B. Farrell B.A.Hons.

Please note Monday 4th March is a training day and the school is closed to pupils.

Tuesday 26th February 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Bishop Walsh Catholic Secondary School - Academy Status consultation

In April last year the Diocese of Birmingham established the principle of a model of partnership working between clusters of schools, the Multi-Academy Trust model, in which Catholic Schools could convert to Academy status whilst safeguarding their distinctive Catholic ethos and ensuring that no school in the Diocese would be left in a vulnerable position.

Having considered the Birmingham Diocesan guidance, and having received Diocesan and DfE approval, the Governing Body of Bishop Walsh Catholic Secondary School wish to consult you on the proposal to formalise the already strong partnership working with the other three Catholic Sutton Schools i.e. Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and St Nicholas Catholic Primary School by coming together to establish the Sutton Coldfield Catholic Schools Multi Academy.

Over the last few months all schools have been working together and all the above schools are now ready to consult with stakeholders. In considering conversion to academy status the over-riding concerns of the Governing Bodies are to ensure that our schools continue to provide the best standard of education and continue to care for our pupils, to preserve the Catholic ethos within our schools and to continue to serve our wider Catholic communities. Therefore, your views are important to us and we are keen to know them.

Consultation will run from Tuesday 26th February 2013 to noon on Monday 15th April 2013.

(General information about Academies and conversion to Academy status can be found on the DfE's website <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies>)

We are holding the following questions and answers consultation forums:

- 9.15am to 10.15 am Thursday 14th March at St Joseph's Catholic School.**
- 10.45am to 11.45 am Thursday 14th March at Holy Cross Catholic School.**
- 2.15pm to 3.15 pm Thursday 14th March at St Nicholas Catholic School.**
- 5.00pm to 6.00pm Thursday 14th March at Bishop Walsh Catholic Secondary School**

As well as using the forums you can e-mail your views to n.courbet@bishopwalsh.net or alternatively write directly to Nick Courbet, Academy Conversion Manager c/o Bishop Walsh Catholic School.

Yours in Christ,

Peter McLean

Chair of the Governing Body

J.B. Farrell

Head Teacher

Caring to Learn,
Learning to Care



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